

# Modernizing Four Forest Restoration Initiative Implementation - Progress



### What does this work respond to?

Legal requirements—To protect jobs and prevent timber theft, Federal Regulation and Forest Service national policy require double-end branding as well as painting of logs requiring domestic processing in the western US.

Forest Service National Policy—Current FS national policy permits Contracting Officers to waive painting and branding on one end of logs.

Feedback—Operators report that current painting and branding requirements, including one-end waivers, create unnecessary expense and inefficiency for some projects.

### What was done?

1. At the end of 2018, the Regional Forester committed to reducing the requirements to painting and branding one end of 50% of logs greater than 12" diameter.
2. During 2019, a new waiver was developed, reviewed, and made available consistent with the RF commitment.
3. In response to feedback from purchasers and partners, the Regional Office recently requested a national policy deviation to completely waive painting and branding, consistent with federal regulation, when determined appropriate for the circumstances.



**What worked well?**

Start small—The 50% waiver was adapted from an isolated project with one operator, all scaled sales at identical rates, and material processed locally.

Accelerated Response Review form—This was developed to identify and track changes to Region 3 policy and procedure. The form was recently used to request national policy deviation from one-end branding and painting waiver limits to require no branding and painting where appropriate.

**Key Points for Implementation**

Waivers are not automatic, universal, or permanent.

As defined in 36 cfr 223.195:

- Decision is made by the Contracting Officer on a case-by-case basis.
- Purchaser must certify no prior export within 5 years.
- Waiver applies only to logs being processed locally.
- Waiver will be revoked if circumstances change.

CO Decision is an analysis of both export and theft risk

**Recommendations**

- Use of electronic load ticketing with tags may improve load accountability and reduce the need for painting and branding.
- Make proactive waiver determinations when practical.

USDA - Forest Service - Woods Permit	
Date	Time
S-03- 073551	
Sale Name	Destination
I _____ AGREE TO PRESENT THIS ENTIRE (Driver's Signature) LOAD OF LOGS TO THE DESIGNATED SCALE LOCATION.	
USDA - Forest Service - Trucker Permit	
Date	S-03- 073551
Mo.	Time
Days	Minutes
USDA - Forest Service Scaler Permit	
Sample Group	Ranger District Address and Telephone Number
Log Brand	Hours
Sale Name	Staple
Scaling Location	Staple
S-03- 073551	
USDA - Forest Service - Load Permit	
Date	S-03-073551
Log Brand	Ranger District Address and Telephone Number
Staple	
Staple	
USDA - Forest Service - Purchaser Permit	
Date	S-03-073551

